

D. CDR C. BIRDWELL, JR. - SSM  
"FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY IN ACTION AGAINST HOSTILE  
FORCES IN NORTH VIETNAM WHILE ATTACHED TO AND SERVING AS COMMANDING  
OFFICER OF ATTACK SQUADRON TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN EMBARKED IN USS  
HANCOCK (CVA 19) ON 7 JULY 1966. COMMANDER BIRDWELL LED THE SECOND  
ELEMENT OF TEN AIRCRAFT IN A LARGE STRIKE AGAINST THE EXTREMELY  
IMPORTANT HAIPHONG PETROLEUM STORAGE AND TRANSFER FACILITY IN NORTH  
VIETNAM. ALTHOUGH THE TARGET AREA WAS VIRTUALLY A FORTRESS OF LIGHT.

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# NAVAL MESSAGE

# NAVY DEPARTMENT

MEDIUM AND HEAVY ANTIAIRCRAFT GUNS AS WELL AS NUMEROUS ACTIVE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SITES; HE STEADFASTLY LED HIS ATTACK ELEMENT TO THE TARGET AND EXECUTED A PERFECTLY TIMED, COORDINATED ATTACK WHICH RESULTED IN THE SERIOUS DEPLETION OF THE PETROLEUM RESOURCES OF NORTH VIETNAM. HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN THE AIR, HIS DETERMINATION AND COURAGE IN THE FACE OF EXTREME DANGER WERE IN LARGE PART RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS OF THIS CRUCIAL MISSION. THE PROFESSIONALISM DEMONSTRATED BY COMMANDER BIRDWELL DURING THIS MOST DIFFICULT MISSION REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND WAS AT ALL TIMES IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE."

E. CDR C. BIRDWELL, JR., - BSM

"FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH OPERATIONS INVOLVING CONFLICT WITH AN OPPOSING FOREIGN FORCE WHILE SERVING AS COMMANDING OFFICER OF ATTACK SQUADRON TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN EMBARKED IN USS HANCOCK (CVA 19) DURING THE PERIOD 17 DECEMBER 1965 TO 8 JULY 1966. COMMANDER BIRDWELL'S SKILL AND METICULOUS EFFORTS IN DEVISING TACTICS TO COUNTER THE VARIOUS ENEMY THREATS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTSTANDING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SQUADRON. HIS PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, TIRELESS DEVOTION TO DUTY AND OUTSTANDING DIRECTION OF HIS SQUADRON'S EFFORT WERE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SEVENTH FLEET ATTACK CARRIER STRIKING FORCE. COMMANDER BIRDWELL'S UNUSUAL INITIATIVE AND RESOURCEFULNESS UNDER THE ARDUOUS CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY COMBAT OPERATIONS REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND WERE AT ALL TIMES IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE."

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